



Nathan Deal, Governor

Clyde L. Reese, III, Esq., Commissioner

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October 2017

Dear Friends,

The Cherokee County Department of Family and Children Services would like to thank you again for your participation in our "Secret Santa Program" in the past. Last year with your help, we were able to serve approximately 400 children and ensure they had gifts to open on Christmas morning. Without you, it simply would not have happened.

We are currently gearing up for Secret Santa 2017 and expect to serve over 300 foster children. As you know, our goal is to provide **BRAND NEW** gifts for foster children who have been removed from their homes due to abuse, neglect or other issues. If you would like to participate again this year, here is a recap of how the Secret Santa program operates:

1. The children in foster care submit a "wish list" to our office.
2. We then match the sponsors, who have provided us with an estimated budget, with the lists of these children. You will receive information such as the child's first name, age, sizes, and any special wishes or needs the child may have.
3. The secret sponsors purchase new gifts and delivers the gifts to the designated Secret Santa office. (Details will be sent to you when you submit your completed form and are matched with a child.)
4. Foster Parents and placement resources pick up the gifts at the Secret Santa Office, in time for Santa to deliver them on Christmas morning.

If your preference is to purchase Christmas gifts, please complete and return your sponsor form to DFCS as soon as possible in order to give us time to match the children with the sponsors. We expect to send the children's wish list to their sponsors beginning the second week of November, so it is critical to return your sponsor form soon. Please feel free to tell your friends about the program. You may copy the sponsor form for sharing with those who are interested in becoming a sponsor.

Another easy way to fill our children's needs is by making a cash donation. This type of sponsorship would help our children year round, not just at Christmas. Some of the ways we use donations year round are to purchase class rings, prom dresses, pay for children to play baseball, soccer, participate in gymnastics, music lessons, participate in Scouts, attend special overnight field trips, and to obtain tutoring. Won't you please help a child by making a tax-deductible donation today? One hundred percent of all monetary donations are used to directly meet the needs of our children. If a donation is preferred, send your check made payable to "Cherokee Co. D.F.C.S." (For: Secret Santa) along with the completed sponsor form to the DFCS address above. Please consider becoming a sponsor for this worthy program by completing the enclosed form, and indicate your willingness to purchase gifts or make a cash donation.

Please discuss this program with anyone who is still looking for a Christmas charity to support. We'll be happy to answer any questions you may have, so don't hesitate to contact us. We ask your patience if you call and get our voice mail. Please leave a message and we will return your call as soon as possible. All Secret Santa calls should be directed to **470-235-0753**. For more detailed information, or to print off the Sponsor Form, please go to our website listed below.

Sincerely,

CHEROKEE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN SERVICES

Secret Santa Phone: **470-235-0753**

Email: cherokeesanta@yahoo.com

Website: www.cherokeesanta.com

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